

such disordered and diseased minds result from a primarily disordered and diseased conditions of these physical organs upon which they are dependent for their manifestations, or upon the diseased condition of other organs acting sympathetically on these.

A recognition of the almost or quite universal opinion of the moral state and legal condition of the insane, expressed in the first of these propositions, necessarily excites for them the tender sympathies and lively interest of every enlightened and humane citizen of the State, while it clearly shows that they should become the objects of the watchful supervision and fostering care of the commonwealth.

The celebrated Erskine, when Lord Chancellor of England, in expounding the great principles of the common law, declared, in respect of its applicability to this unfortunate class of citizens, "*that it fell to the king to take care of those who could not take care of themselves.*" And a late distinguished scholar and philanthropist, Horace Mann, in earnestly advocating the interest of the insane before the Legislature of Massachusetts, said, "*the insane are the wards of the commonwealth;*" thus, with touching truthfulness, indicating their morally helpless and legally dependent condition. And so, also, the framers of our Constitution, contemplating the subject from the same enlightened stand point, have, by constitutional enactment, provided that all the insane shall be taken care of at the public expense.

Thus we find that every interest in the State is appealed to in behalf of the insane. Not only the enlightened philanthropist and humanitarian has his sympathies aroused and actively directed toward their welfare, but every tax payer is personally appealed to in their behalf. For neither those who are best off in the matter of this world's goods, nor those who happen not to be fortunes' favorites, can tell whether the next victim of this dreaded affliction shall be from a circle where abundant means, intelligent conversation and genial manners constitute the charm of social life and indicate an advanced civil-